

## REMARKS

### I. Introduction

Claims 1-24 and 27-61 are pending in the present application. In a September 27, 2007 Office Action (herein "Office Action"), Claims 1-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 24, 27, 36, 42, and 45-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,023,679, to Acebo et al. (herein "Acebo"). Claims 2-7, 11-12, 34-35, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0082877, to Schiff et al. (herein "Schiff"). Claims 8-10 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,868,403, to Wiser et al. (herein "Wiser"). Claims 13, 29, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,094,640, to Goheen (herein "Goheen"). Claims 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Goheen as applied to Claim 29, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,953,706, to Patel (herein "Patel"). Claims 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Patel and Goheen. Claims 18-19 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Patel. Claims 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Goheen, and further in view of Patel. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Patel, and in further view of Schiff. Claims 37-41, 56-58, and 60-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,926,203, to Sehr (herein "Sehr"). Claim 59 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Sehr, and further in view of Patel. Claims 52-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Patel and Goheen, and in further view of Sehr. Claim 54 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Goheen, and in further view of Sehr and Patel.

LAW OFFICES OF  
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>  
1420 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 2800  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
206.682.8100

For the following reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the rejected claims of the present application are allowable over the various combinations of Acebo, Schiff, Wiser, Goheen, Patel, and Sehr because the cited and applied references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each of the limitations recited with regard to independent Claims 1, 27, 42, and 50. Prior to discussing more detailed reasons why applicants believe that all the claims of the present invention are allowable, a brief description of the present invention and the cited references are presented.

A. Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter

The present invention generally relates to a system, method and computer-readable medium for processing reservation requests. Specifically, the present invention maps one or more reservation requests into three levels of detail. The first level of detail utilized to describe a reservation request is a reservation transaction record. Each reservation transaction record can be associated with one or more reservation requests. A second level of detail utilized to define a reservation request is a reservation items record. Each reservation items record corresponds to a reservation transaction record and defines one or more inventory items that are associated with a particular reservation request. A third level of detail utilized to define a reservation request is one or more reservation inventory records. Each reservation inventory record corresponds to a reservation item record and is associated with an instance of an inventory item associated with the reservation request. Thus, the present invention processes reservation requests for one or more inventory items utilizing the three levels of detail.

B. U.S. Patent No. 6,023,679, to Acebo et al.

Acebo is purportedly directed toward a method for automatically generating travel reservation information for at least one traveler. As taught in Acebo, a computer reservation system (CRS) receives traveler identification information from each traveler, each traveler is located at one or more locally operated computer systems. Acebo, col. 4, lines 42-49. A

passenger name record (PNR) is created from the information. Col. 4, lines 54-56. In conjunction, the CRS generates at least one potential travel itinerary for each traveler, at least one of which is subsequently selected and booked. Col. 4, lines 56-58. Information regarding the booked itinerary reservation is placed in the PNR. Col. 4, lines 58-60. The CRS creates an information management record (IMR) when the reservation is booked, including parsed information from the PNR. Col. 5, lines 17-19; col. 9, lines 45-47. The IMR is then transferred to a locally operated computer system. Col. 5, lines 20-21.

In one aspect, Acebo teaches a method for storing booked travel itinerary reservation information into two tables. The method includes the steps of accessing the booked travel itinerary information from the CRS. Col. 6, lines 16-18. All characteristics common to the travel transactions are stored into a common table on the locally operated computer system. Col. 6, lines 17-21. Detail tables, corresponding to uncommon characteristics, are stored in the locally operated computer system. Col. 6, lines 21-25. A linking field associates the detail tables to the common table. Col. 6, lines 25-26.

Nevertheless, Acebo fails to teach or suggest generating three levels of detail defined by reservation transaction records, reservation items records, and reservation inventory records corresponding to matching inventory data. The prior art also fails to teach or suggest reservation items records defining a second level of detail that identifies sets of inventory items associated with specific reservation requests.

## II. Claim Rejections

### A. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection of Claim 1

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the matching inventory data." In response, applicants have modified the claim to read "obtaining inventory data corresponding

to the one or more inventory items and matching the user request for reservation with the inventory data." Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 112 rejection and allowance of Claim 1.

B. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections of the Independent Claims

I. The Claims Distinguished

a. Independent Claim 1

Claim 1, as currently amended, recites:

1. A method for processing reservation requests for one or more inventory items, the method comprising:

obtaining a user request for reservation of at least one inventory item;

obtaining inventory data corresponding to the one or more inventory items and matching the user request for reservation with the inventory data;

generating three levels of detail for the user request for reservation defined by reservation transaction records, reservation items records, and reservation inventory records corresponding to the matching inventory data;

wherein the reservation transaction records define a first level of detail associated with one or more reservation requests;

wherein one or more reservation items records define a second level of detail that corresponds to the reservation transaction records and identifies a set of inventory items associated with the specific reservation request; and

wherein one or more reservation inventory records define a third level of detail that corresponds to an instance of the reservation items records and includes data associated with instances of reservation requests for inventory items identified in the reservation items records;

processing the reservation transaction records, reservation items records, and reservation inventory records; and

transmitting results of the processing of the reservation transaction records, reservation items records, and reservation inventory records.

Claim 1 recites a method for processing reservation requests for one or more inventory items. Claim 1 specifically recites "obtaining inventory data corresponding to the one or more inventory items and matching the user request for reservation with the inventory data,"

"generating three levels of detail for the user request for reservation defined by reservation transaction records, reservation items records, and reservation inventory records corresponding to the matching inventory data," and "one or more reservation items records define a second level of detail that corresponds to the reservation transaction records and identifies a set of inventory items associated with the specific reservation request."

Applicants respectfully submit that Acebo fails to teach or suggest three levels of detail, including reservation items records defining a second level of detail. As taught by Claim 1 of the present invention, the reservation items records correspond to sets of inventory items associated with reservation transaction records. By having the second level of detail, inventory data may be further arranged into sets of inventory items having common characteristics. This advantage provides for more efficient searching of the inventory items.

In contrast to the three levels of the present invention as recited in Claim 1, Acebo teaches that a computer reservation system (CRS) generates at least one or more potential travel itineraries for presentation to an agent, at least one of which is subsequently selected and booked. Acebo, col. 4, lines 56-58. Because the one or more potential travel itineraries for presentation correspond to instances of reservation requests, Acebo does not contemplate the implementation of reservation items records defining a second level of detail corresponding to sets of inventory items associated with the reservation request. Hence, arranging the inventory items in a second level of detail for efficient searching is not shown. Since the second level of detail is not shown and the advantage is not available, Acebo fails to teach or suggest the present invention.

It is well established that under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), a *prima facie* case of obviousness is made only if the cited references, alone or in combination, teach each and every element recited in the claim. *In re Bell*, 991 F2d 781 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Acebo fails to teach or suggest three levels of detail for a user request for a reservation, the second level of detail corresponding to reservation items records and identifying sets of inventory items associated with the request.

Applicants further note that Acebo, Schiff, Wiser, Goheen, Patel, and Sehr, alone or in combination, also fail to teach or suggest the present invention as recited in Claim 1 for the previous reason. Because the cited reference, Acebo, fails to teach or suggest each of the elements recited with regard to independent Claim 1, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection.

b. Independent Claims 27, 42, and 50

For purposes of this discussion, Claims 27, 42, and 50 will be discussed together because the elements discussed herein are similar for each claim. In particular, Claim 27, as currently amended, recites, "one or more reservation items records defining a second level of detail corresponding to the reservation transaction record and identifying a set of inventory items associated with the specific reservation request." Similarly, Claim 42, as currently amended, recites, "wherein the one or more reservation items components define a second level of detail corresponding to the reservation transaction record and operable to identify reservation requests for inventory items." Claim 50, as currently amended, recites "wherein one or more reservation items records define a second level of detail that corresponds to the reservation transaction records and identifies a set of inventory items associated with the specific reservation request."

As Claims 27, 42, and 50 recite similar elements as found in Claim 1, particularly reservation items records defining a second level of detail, the rationale as to why applicants believe Claim 1 is in condition for allowance is applicable to these claims. Accordingly applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

b. Dependent Claims 2-24

Claims 2-24 are dependent on Claim 1. As discussed above, Schiff fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations recited with regard to Claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the reasons mentioned above in regards to Claim 1, dependent Claims 2-24 are allowable over the cited and

LAW OFFICES OF  
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>  
1420 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 2800  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
206.682.8100

applied references, alone or in combination. In addition, Claims 2-24 further add to the patentability and nonobviousness of applicants' invention. For these reasons, applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of Claims 2-24.

c. Dependent Claims 28-41

Claims 28-41 are dependent on Claim 27. As discussed above, Schiff fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations recited with regard to Claim 27. Accordingly, for at least the reasons mentioned above in regards to Claim 27, dependent Claims 28-41 are allowable over the cited and applied references, alone or in combination. In addition, Claims 28-41 further add to the patentability and nonobviousness of applicants' invention. For these reasons, applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of Claims 28-41.

d. Dependent Claims 43-49

Claims 43-49 are dependent on Claim 42. As discussed above, Schiff fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations recited with regard to Claim 42. Accordingly, for at least the reasons mentioned above in regards to Claim 42, dependent Claims 43-49 are allowable over the cited and applied references, alone or in combination. In addition, Claims 43-49 further add to the patentability and nonobviousness of applicants' invention. For these reasons, applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of Claims 43-49.

e. Dependent Claims 51-61

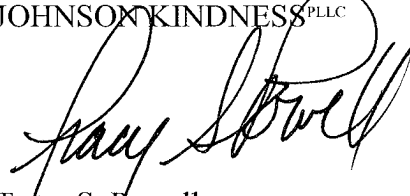
Claims 51-61 are dependent on Claim 50. As discussed above, Schiff fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations recited with regard to Claim 50. Accordingly, for at least the reasons mentioned above in regards to Claim 50, dependent Claims 51-61 are allowable over the cited and applied references, alone or in combination. In addition, Claims 51-61 further add to the nonobviousness of applicants' invention. For these reasons, applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of Claims 51-61.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the above-referenced arguments, applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims of the present application, Claims 1-24 and 27-61, are allowable over the cited and applied references. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all the rejections of the claims of the present invention and allowance of the present application. If any questions remain, applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR  
JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>



Tracy S. Powell  
Registration No. 53,479  
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1796

TSP/ACF:jlg

LAW OFFICES OF  
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>  
1420 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 2800  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
206.682.8100